Restructuring ICAR

2048. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are holding consultations to restructure the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to make the organization more stronger in the agriculture research considering its role in the national economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government want the ICAR to develop scientist-entrepreneur scheme on the lines of a similar scheme in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) A committee had been set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Its report has been received on 18.07.2005, and the recommendations of the Committee are in the process of examination.

Protection of kharif crops

2049. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the delay in monsoon, kharif crops like pulses, oilseeds and cereals have been affected;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to protect the interest of the farmers due to this factor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The behaviour of monsoon was erratic in the month of June, 2005 and at the all India level the cumulative

rainfall from 1st June to 29th June was 20% less than the normal. However, the monsoon revived subsequently and the cumulative rainfall from 1st June to 3rd August, 2005 was 5% more than the normal.

The delayed on set of south-west monsoon has delayed sowing activities. As per the reports considered by the Crop Weather Watch Group of Ministry of the Agriculture in its meeting held on 08.08.2005, the status of sowing of crops in Kharif 2005-06 as compared to the corresponding period of 2004-05 is as follows:

(lakh hectares)

Crop/Year	2005-06	2004-05
Rice	223.13	227.33
Coarse Cereals	216.05	222.91
Pulses*	81.13	82.26
Oilseeds*	150.37	154.28
Cotton	79.11	77.93
Sugarcane	41.34	37.52
Jute	7.88	7.69

As on 08.08.2005

*As on 05.08.2005

As the sowing operations have acceleratd with progress of monsoon, it is expected that the area under crops will further improve in the coming weeks.

(c) and (d) In order to protect the farmers from the irregular rainfall during monsoon through supply of timely information, the National Center for Medium Range Weather Forecasting under the Department of Science and Technology, releases Weekly Weather Forecast and Agro-Advisories on regular basis. The advisories are prepared in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department, the Indian Council for Agricultural Research and the State Agricultural Universities for different agro-climatic zones. The advisories contain suggestions regarding application of irrigation, fertiliser, pesticides etc. and other related measures aimed

minimizing loss to farmers. The advisories cover a wide range of crops comprising cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute and other crops like chilies, tomato, onion, potato etc. In the event of loss the farmers covered under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) will be compensated for failure of crops arising from natural calamities, pests and diseases. The scheme is available to all farmers—loanee and non-loanee irrespective of their size of holdings. Besides, under NAIS, small and marginal farmers are entitled to subsidy on the premium charged from them.

Reforms in HOPCOMS

2050. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any proposal to sanction Rs.120 crores to streamline and to introduce reforms in Horticultural Producers' Co-operative Marketing Society (HOPCOMS) in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government of Karnataka has submitted a project proposal to the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development for Development of Horticultural Producers' Cooperative Marketing Society (HOPCOMS), Karnataka amounting to Rs.100.41 crore.

(b) The proposal has been examined and returned back to the Government of Karnataka for revision as per the guidelines of Special Project of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

FAO approach for reducing hunger

2051. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has described the progress made for reducing hunger in the country, so far, as disappointing;